

- Female Student

REFUGE

Screenplay by Mark Medoff

Based on a Story by Mark Medoff & Phil Treon

TITLE SEQUENCE - IN BLACK

We HEAR someone singing "Rock of Ages."

EXT. HOSPICE - DAY - DEMING, NM

A sign: "BUFFALO SPRINGS HOSPICE." Against fierce SUNLIGHT, we PUSH AT A WINDOW, into...

INT. HOME HOSPICE BEDROOM - DAY

AMELIA PHILIPS, 39, in scrubs, bathes the feet of a TERMINAL OLD WOMAN, 80. Amelia is the singer.

There's a tidy MARIAN SHRINE at the woman's bedside.

In AMELIA'S EYES, we see compassion for this woman's impending death morphing to some personal pain that turns her eyes to the hard light flooding the window.

The Old Woman smiles at Amelia, is ready for sleep. Amelia turns off the bedside lamp. The Old Woman reaches feeble fingers up...removes her WIG...presses it gently into Amelia's chest, nodding: For you.

EXT. CHARTER SCHOOL - DAY - LAS CRUCES, NM

"ALMA DES ARTES SCHOOL." Security guard, JACK PHILIPS, 40, stands against the building; he has a WALKIE. A FEMALE STUDENT exits the front doors to his side.

JACK

Where you goin', sweetie?

FEMALE STUDENT

Appointment with the gynecologist.

JACK

Uh-uh -- back inside.

FEMALE STUDENT

What?

Refuge -

start

1/2

FEMALE STUDENT

2.

JACK
Abstinence! Get your ass back to school.

Intimidated, the Female Student creeps back inside as...

...a YOUNG MAN sidles up. Jack slams the Young Man against the wall, pats him down, rummages in his pockets, takes a plastic pill bottle...

JACK (CONT'D)
On the tab -- I'm a little light.

Jack ejects the Young Man on his way. Jack pops 2 Ocycontin, crunching them like Skittles...

...as we PUSH AT THE WINDOW beside Jack, into...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

DARRYL TRIPP, 27, sits on the edge of his desk, reading a student manuscript. He's impeccably attired in necktie, creased jeans and cowboy boots.

DARRYL (cont'd)
"Stubbled chin on his hands, like some bedrock on which to build a future, Charlie smiled, the gold tooth catching the hard winter light. And then he did something he hadn't in what seemed a lifetime: Charlie Medina laughed."

Darryl stares at the pages in his hand, so moved in some way, that, for just a moment, he's lost.

Masking his hopes behind cool disinterest, the GANGSTA AUTHOR, 16, awaits his teacher's response.

Darryl glances. ON HIS DESK, a stationery box; written with a Sharpie: BLACK DOG, by Darryl Tripp; his address and common law copyright.

DARRYL nods, tight-lipped at Miguel; could mean many things. What's unmistakable is the envy in his eyes.

DARRYL (CONT'D)
So, what's wrong with Miguel's story?

The BEAUTIFUL GIRL opposite Miguel stares her adulation at the future Pulitzer winner. But the CLASS GEEK heaves his hand up; he's heavily armed with criticism.

Darryl eyes drift to his own manuscript, then to Miguel.

-Ridge-

STOP

2/2